



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service  
P.O. Box 609, Olympia, WA 98507  
(360) 902-1940 Fax (360) 902-2091

# Washington Crop Weather

Released: October 27, 2003, 1:00 p.m.  
Week Ending: October 26, 2003  
CWP WA-CW4303

## Record Rains Affect Western Washington

### Field Crops

West of the Cascades, heavy rains flooded fields, damaging corn silage, potato, seed and nursery crops. Damage from the flooding will not be determined until harvest time. In the east, dry conditions continued, hindering the emergence of the winter wheat crop.

### Livestock

Calves continue to move to market at record prices. Grazing conditions were at best fair, but the mild weather and rain showers have greened up fall pastures.

### Fruits and Vegetables

As fields dried, harvest picked up again for apples and fall vegetables. In central Washington, pear harvest was mostly completed and late season apple harvest was winding down. Some apple damage was reported as high winds were blowing fruit off the trees.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

| Week      | Days |
|-----------|------|
| This Week | 5.5  |
| Last Week | 4.7  |

### Moisture and Supply

| Item             | Percent |    |    |    |
|------------------|---------|----|----|----|
|                  | VS      | SH | AD | S  |
| Topsoil          | 11      | 34 | 44 | 11 |
| Subsoil          | 14      | 36 | 50 | 0  |
| Irrigation Water | 5       | 9  | 86 | 0  |
| Hay & Roughage   | 0       | 9  | 78 | 13 |

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

### Crop Progress

| Crop/Activity         | Percent Completed |           |      |            |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------|------|------------|
|                       | This Week         | Last Week | 2002 | 5 Yr. Avg. |
| Winter Wheat Planted  | 99                | 98        | 99   | 98         |
| Winter Wheat Emerged  | 85                | 82        | 89   | 90         |
| Potatoes Harvested    | 98                | 89        | 94   | 94         |
| Corn Silage Harvested | 100               | 86        | 99   | 100        |
| Corn Grain Harvested  | 40                | 18        | 33   | 34         |

### Crop Condition\*

| Crop                   | % Acreage |   |    |     |    |
|------------------------|-----------|---|----|-----|----|
|                        | VP        | P | F  | G   | EX |
| Winter Wheat Dryland   | 2         | 5 | 44 | 47  | 2  |
| Winter Wheat Irrigated | 0         | 0 | 0  | 100 | 0  |
| Corn                   | 0         | 1 | 16 | 83  | 0  |

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

\* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Grays Harbor/Lewis:** Heavy rains early in the week probably eliminated any shortages of subsoil moisture. Pastures continued to green up as near record high temperatures, toward the end of the week, generated a growth spurt.

**Jefferson:** Some rain was received on Monday but conditions were dry by the weekend. There was a record number of squash and pumpkin crops. This past weekend was the last Farmer's Market of the season. It has been a good dry year for tomatoes as well as a bumper year for apple crops.

**Pierce/King:** The heavy rain made getting out onto the fields very difficult. There were reports of building damage and flooded fields due to the heavy rain. Some crops may have suffered damage, but producers won't know the extent of the damage until harvest is complete.

**Skagit:** Heavy rainfall early in the week caused major flooding in the city of Hamilton up-river. There were also areas of flooding in the floor of the Skagit Valley. The Skagit river crested at a record height of 42.2' at Concrete early Tuesday. The river crested at 36.2' in Mount Vernon, falling 18" short of the projected level. Major sandbagging efforts in downtown Mount Vernon and along levees and dikes, proved effective in preventing floods from reaching most residential and downtown areas. Dike district commissioners and Skagit County Public Works were very busy managing the impending peril. Few crops were affected. Some potato fields were flooded briefly, but the water drained into the sloughs quickly. Dry ground from the

summer drought provided some water storage. Low tide at the time of the river crest and a relatively short rainfall period contributed to the flood prevention.

**Snohomish/King:** Heavy rains during the week caused flooding and crop damage in some lowland farms. Floating pumpkins were common. Apple harvest continued. U-Pick pumpkin farms were doing good business. Some grass for silage was harvested late in the week, as fields dried out.

**Snohomish/King (2nd report):** Record breaking rain Monday swelled rivers and creeks to flood levels not normally expected in October. Several corn mazes and pumpkin fields were under several feet of water by Tuesday. Pumpkins that had been lined up neatly in the fields were floating down rivers, sloughs, and neighborhood streets. By the end of the week, the sun had returned with above average temperatures to help dry out some of the fields, and business was back to normal for most of the farms. High winds downed trees in several areas. Damage was reported on fences, debris on fences and fields, corn silage not yet harvested, seed crops in the field, potatoes and nursery crops not harvested. The total extent of the damage from the flooding is still not known.

**Whatcom:** Farmers in the lowland areas surrounding Nooksack were in the process of cleaning up fields after the flooding. All potatoes and corn have been harvested and apples should be done within the next week or so. Unless mild weather conditions continue, there may be no more cutting of grass. Raspberry growers were in the process of caning their fields.

## Central

**Benton:** Grape and apple harvest was nearly finished. Calls were received from some producers that were affected from the October freeze last year. This impacted the crops a lot more than earlier anticipated. Rain is needed.

**Chelan/Douglas/Okanogan:** Rain during the week slowed harvest but the crop was less than expected, so harvest was still relatively on schedule. Fuji, Granny Smith, and Pink Lady apples were the main varieties that remained but all of these were partially harvested. Growers were encouraged by the high quality, but yields were uniformly less.

**Chelan/Douglas (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Pear harvest was complete. The pear crop size was smaller than normal. Apple harvest continued. Crop yields were lower than expected. High winds were received, which damaged some late variety apples. Several producers in the Chelan/Manson area reported apples being blown off the trees. Some apple producers were attributing last fall's early freeze to their low production this year. Recent precipitation helped the winter wheat crop's emergence.

**Franklin:** Carrot and sweet corn harvest continued. The final cutting of alfalfa neared completion. Aphid populations

were high, and some growers sprayed fields. Apples were being picked.

**Grant:** Sweet corn harvest was nearly complete. Carrot harvest continued. The fourth cutting of alfalfa was 90 percent complete. The first picking of Pink Lady apples in the Mattawa/Royal area and the first picking of Fuji apples in the Royal/Quincy area was over. The second picking of Fuji and Cameo apples was complete.

**Kittitas:** Most of the calves were gone. Some light rain dampened things. There has been some greening up on dryland acreage. Temperatures remained very pleasant. Fall timothy hay seedings were coming in well.

**Yakima:** Apple harvest was focused on finishing up the late varieties of Fuji and Pink Lady apples.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Average temperatures ranged from normal to 23 degrees above normal, with 0.1" of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

## Eastern

**Asotin/Garfield:** Fall planting was nearly complete in all areas. Winter wheat was still struggling to emerge as the drought conditions continued in most areas. Pastures continued to deteriorate, as there has been little or no growth this fall.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** The pasture conditions remained short on feed. Fall work was winding down with some producers seeding additional acres of winter wheat because of the warm weather. Wheat emergence was still slow due to lack of moisture. In Pend Oreille County an inch of rainfall was received. But in Spokane County the north end received .25" but the southern part received less than .01" or less.

**Stevens:** Rain showers and warm temperatures greened up fall pastures. Winter wheat emerged and appeared in fair condition. Calves continued to move to market at record

prices.

**Walla Walla:** Warm days and very cool evenings helped crops grow well, but more precipitation is needed.

**Whitman:** Rain was still on the wish list. Winter wheat seemed to be emerging and was rated fair to good. Grazing conditions for livestock were fair at best, but mild conditions have been beneficial.

**Whitman (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Dry conditions continued to prevail throughout the week. Precipitation is needed for newly emerged winter wheat. Many new stands were patchy and uneven and in need of rain. Some producers continued to work on fall tillage operations, while others were putting equipment away for the winter.

National weather website: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/pubs.htm>

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# Weekly Weather Statistics

## October 27, 2003

| Station             | Air Temperature |    |     |     | Growing Degree Days |     |          |     | Last Week Precipitation |       |      | Season Precipitation |       |          |      |
|---------------------|-----------------|----|-----|-----|---------------------|-----|----------|-----|-------------------------|-------|------|----------------------|-------|----------|------|
|                     | LO              | HI | AVG | DFN | Base 50F            |     | Base 60F |     | Total                   |       |      | Total                |       | % Normal | Days |
|                     |                 |    |     |     | TOT                 | DFN | TOT      | DFN | Inches                  | DFN   | Days | Inches               | DFN   |          |      |
| <b>WEST</b>         |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |       |          |      |
| Bellingham          | 37              | 67 | 54  | 6   | 33                  | 26  | 0        | 0   | 2.54                    | 1.67  | 4    | 8.19                 | 3.54  | 176      | 21   |
| Everett             | 42              | 67 | 54  | 6   | 35                  | 28  | 2        | 2   | 2.32                    | 1.54  | 4    | 4.88                 | 0.28  | 106      | 20   |
| Hoquiam             | 42              | 72 | 57  | 6   | 53                  | 30  | 3        | 3   | 6.38                    | 4.77  | 4    | 15.25                | 7.12  | 188      | 26   |
| Kelso               | 41              | 77 | 60  | 10  | 69                  | 55  | 23       | 23  | 1.83                    | 0.85  | 4    | 5.26                 | -0.09 | 98       | 22   |
| Olympia             | 36              | 68 | 55  | 8   | 41                  | 36  | 6        | 6   | 4.78                    | 3.64  | 4    | 11.89                | 6.31  | 213      | 26   |
| Sea-Tac             | 43              | 66 | 56  | 6   | 47                  | 33  | 5        | 5   | 5.57                    | 4.73  | 4    | 8.95                 | 4.56  | 204      | 22   |
| Shelton             | 36              | 68 | 56  | 7   | 42                  | 29  | 6        | 6   | 7.98                    | 6.52  | 4    | 18.44                | 11.54 | 267      | 26   |
| Tacoma              | 37              | 70 | 55  | 6   | 42                  | 32  | 8        | 8   | 5.28                    | 4.42  | 4    | 9.10                 | 4.63  | 204      | 24   |
| Vancouver           | 37              | 81 | 60  | 11  | 75                  | 62  | 28       | 28  | 0.09                    | -0.73 | 1    | 3.54                 | -0.94 | 79       | 19   |
| <b>CENTRAL</b>      |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |       |          |      |
| Ellensburg          | 28              | 75 | 52  | 8   | 31                  | 31  | 4        | 4   | 0.06                    | -0.08 | 2    | 0.28                 | -0.64 | 30       | 7    |
| Omak                | 27              | 74 | 52  | 9   | 35                  | 35  | 6        | 6   | 0.37                    | 0.16  | 2    | 1.41                 | -0.08 | 95       | 8    |
| Stampede Pass       | 35              | 68 | 49  | 12  | 23                  | 23  | 0        | 0   | 2.97                    | 1.25  | 3    | 12.93                | 4.48  | 153      | 23   |
| Wenatchee           | 34              | 72 | 53  | 6   | 31                  | 24  | 5        | 5   | 0.08                    | -0.06 | 3    | 0.42                 | -0.32 | 57       | 7    |
| Yakima AP           | 29              | 83 | 56  | 9   | 54                  | 47  | 18       | 18  | 0.01                    | -0.13 | 1    | 0.25                 | -0.52 | 32       | 6    |
| <b>NORTHEAST</b>    |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |       |          |      |
| Colville            | 26              | 81 | 54  | 12  | 43                  | 43  | 12       | 12  | 0.16                    | -0.17 | 2    | 1.17                 | -0.92 | 56       | 8    |
| Deer Park           | 21              | 76 | 50  | 7   | 35                  | 35  | 11       | 11  | 0.33                    | 0.03  | 3    | 2.48                 | 0.77  | 145      | 12   |
| Spokane AP          | 27              | 77 | 53  | 9   | 40                  | 40  | 10       | 10  | 0.10                    | -0.17 | 3    | 1.20                 | -0.28 | 81       | 10   |
| <b>EAST CENTRAL</b> |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |       |          |      |
| Ephrata             | 31              | 81 | 56  | 8   | 50                  | 42  | 18       | 18  | 0.01                    | -0.13 | 1    | 0.42                 | -0.28 | 60       | 5    |
| Moses Lake          | 28              | 82 | 55  | 8   | 49                  | 41  | 15       | 15  | 0.00                    | -0.14 | 0    | 0.32                 | -0.38 | 46       | 6    |
| Quincy              | 32              | 81 | 56  | 10  | 54                  | 49  | 17       | 17  | 0.03                    | -0.11 | 1    | 0.25                 | -0.54 | 32       | 4    |
| Ritzville           | 26              | 82 | 55  | 9   | 52                  | 50  | 13       | 13  | 0.00                    | -0.21 | 0    | 0.72                 | -0.45 | 62       | 6    |
| <b>SOUTHEAST</b>    |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |       |          |      |
| Hanford             | 30              | 89 | 59  | 8   | 72                  | 49  | 34       | 34  | 0.00                    | -0.11 | 0    | 0.34                 | -0.31 | 52       | 4    |
| Pasco               | 29              | 88 | 57  | 8   | 62                  | 46  | 25       | 25  | 0.00                    | -0.14 | 0    | 0.48                 | -0.28 | 63       | 7    |
| Pullman             | 26              | 79 | 54  | 9   | 49                  | 42  | 19       | 19  | 0.00                    | -0.37 | 0    | 1.47                 | -0.63 | 70       | 9    |
| Whitman Miss.       | 26              | 89 | 56  | 8   | 54                  | 47  | 14       | 14  | 0.00                    | -0.27 | 0    | 1.60                 | 0.11  | 107      | 9    |
| <b>ID PANHANDLE</b> |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |       |          |      |
| Coeur D'A' AP       | 27              | 75 | 52  | 6   | 43                  | 37  | 8        | 8   | 0.55                    | 0.13  | 2    | 2.78                 | 0.35  | 114      | 11   |
| Lewiston ID         | 33              | 83 | 58  | 9   | 62                  | 47  | 21       | 21  | 0.00                    | -0.21 | 0    | 1.28                 | -0.25 | 84       | 8    |

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2003

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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